IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

The Patent Application of)

STEVEN A. BROSEY)

Art Unit: 2661)

Application No. 09/684,287)

Examiner: Unknown)

Filed: October 6, 2000)

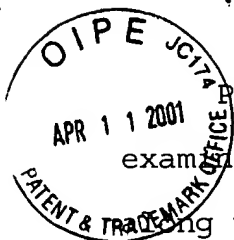
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Sir:

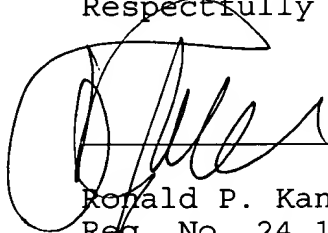
The applicant through its representatives and attorneys, hereby brings to the attention of the Examiner nine (9) documents identified on the accompanying Form PTO-1449. Copies are provided.

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Specifically, the cited documents were noted in the International Search Report (ISR) of February 20, 2001 in connection with a corresponding PCT patent application. A copy of the ISR is also enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner. This submission is timely in that it is made within three months of being brought to the attention of the applicant by the international searching authority.



Please take these documents into account in the initial examination of this application and make their consideration of record, along with the information in the background of the invention in the specification as filed.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald P. Kananen
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Date: April 11, 2001

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